



# Metropolitan King County Councilmember **Carolyn Edmonds**

*Parks and Recreation in North King County*

## **Dear Neighbor:**

For the past four years, I have had the pleasure and challenge of chairing the committee responsible for parks and recreation in King County.

Parks, trails, and open space are vital to our community's health and sense of well-being. These public spaces provide opportunities for recreation, community gatherings, relaxation, alternative transportation, and a host of other uses. In addition, they provide refuge for wildlife and help keep our air and water clean. Keeping our parks system healthy is important to our quality of life in North County.

The County budget crisis has created tremendous challenges for our park system the past several years. From my first day on the job, I had to fight to protect our parks, find ways to make our department more efficient, and look for other sources of funds to continue operations.

I worked hard for passage of the King County Parks Levy to provide critical funding through 2007 to keep our regional parks system operating. I also worked extensively with the department to reinvent the way the Parks Department does business. We have saved millions of dollars by finding new efficiencies, offering services that generate revenue, and focusing our energy on regional assets, such as the Burke-Gilman Trail and Marymoor Park.

Despite funding challenges, I also believe the County must seize the initiative and take advantage of unique opportunities to build our parks and open space system for future generations. I supported legislation that protected 90,000 acres of forest land in east King County, have pushed through funding for expanding our regional trails system, and have approved the purchase of significant pieces of urban open space in North County.

Challenges still remain, but I am proud of the work we have done to preserve and improve our parks system. Today, the King County Parks Department is more efficient, more effective, and more focused on providing the regional services that our residents desire.

This newsletter highlights several of my current projects to improve parks, trails and open space in King County.

Please feel free to share your thoughts on these projects, or any other matter. You can contact me at [carolyn.edmonds@metrokc.gov](mailto:carolyn.edmonds@metrokc.gov) or 206-296-1001. I always appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Carolyn Edmonds



**King County**

## **In this issue:**

- Report on Parks, Trails and Open Space
- South Woods Update
- Hamlin Park Acquisition
- New Regional Trails
- Summer Activities Pull-out

## ADDING NEW TRAILS

# County Negotiates for 47-mile BNSF Rail Corridor

King County has entered negotiations to purchase the 47-mile Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) eastside rail corridor. This acquisition has the potential to transform our

More than 1/3 of weekday trail users are commuting to or from work, according to a recent King County survey.

trail network into one of the finest systems in the nation. I was proud to introduce the legislation that authorized the county to place a refundable deposit with BNSF in exchange for exclusive negotiation rights. The County now has four months to work out a deal.

The rail corridor is an unbroken property approximately 100 feet wide – plenty of space for both a trail and a transit use – that stretches from the north end of Renton to the City of Snohomish. The corridor intersects the Burke-Gilman, Sammamish River, and East Lake Sammamish regional trails. The BNSF link would help create a seamless regional trail system within King County and provide a connection with other transit systems.

I have long been a vocal advocate for a world-class regional trail system in King County. Regional trails offer tremendous health and recreation benefits, and can be an important means of alternative transportation. This potential acquisition is a unique opportunity that will never exist again. If the County does not acquire this property, the land

will be sold off in pieces and the opportunity to develop a contiguous north-south trail corridor will be lost.

These negotiations are difficult and complex. I am committed to ensuring every stakeholder has a place at the table as this process moves forward. We must listen to those who use the railway, the cities the line passes through, potential trail users, mass transit planners, and others. We should give careful consideration to multiple use options for the corridor.

Despite the challenges that we will face, I am optimistic that this project is possible and worth the effort it will take. Generations to come will be glad we took the leadership when the opportunity existed.

## ADDING NEW OPEN SPACE

# South Woods

I am pleased to announce that the Conservation Futures Citizens Oversight Committee has recommended appropriating \$350,000 in County funds toward the South Woods open space acquisition project.

I have pushed hard for County funding for this proposed open space acquisition in Shoreline. The site is a 15.59 acre wooded property located near Shorecrest High School.

Pending executive and legislative approval, the funds would be distributed from the Conservation Futures Fund, which must be used for the purchase of open space in King County.

I will continue to work to secure additional funds needed to preserve this important community resource.



**The proposed South Woods open space acquisition.**





## ADDING NEW PARKLAND

### Hamlin Park and the Stevens Property

I am currently working with local and county officials to acquire an 8.3 acre parcel for the City of Shoreline located directly north of Hamlin Park in the Ridgecrest Neighborhood. The parcel, a mix of woodlands and open fields with significant habitat value, would be added to the existing park. The area would be designated for a variety of passive uses, such as hiking, picnicking, and bird-watching.

The Conservation Futures Citizen Oversight Committee recently recommended allocating \$450,000 in county funds toward the purchase of the parcel. I am excited and optimistic about the progress we are making on adding this pristine parkland to our community.

The Stevens Property in Bothell is a one acre parcel located on the Sammamish River along the Burke-Gilman Trail. The property, which is east of Blythe Park, would become part of the trail's largest continuous green corridor. The Conservation Futures committee has recommended \$87,500 in county funds and the City of Bothell has agreed to provide matching funds from its general account.



*Carolyn walks the Lake Forest Park segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail.*

## UPDATE

### East Lake Sammamish Trail Groundbreaking in July

King County will break ground this July on the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The 12-mile trail will link Issaquah, Sammamish, and Redmond to the larger King County regional trail network, including the Burke-Gilman.

The first phase of the project calls for constructing a packed gravel trail suitable for walkers and mountain bikers. The County has already secured \$900,000 in federal money to help pay for the \$1.6 million initial construction. In early 2006, my committee will review, and forward to the full Council, a plan for paving and maintaining the trail. I am a strong advocate for the completion of this project, and I am optimistic that the plan will move forward quickly.

This new regional trail is the culmination of years of work. I first became involved with this project during my years in the State Legislature. In 1996, Burlington Northern

Santa Fe Railway abandoned its rail routes along the corridor. The County acquired the property in 1998 and began the process of applying for the necessary permits and resolving disputes with interested parties. In May, the County

finally settled all outstanding issues and received the necessary permits to move forward.

The construction of this regional trail was well worth the effort. The East Lake Sammamish Trail will be a major asset to the region for generations to come. I am proud of the role I played in bringing this project to reality, and I am appreciative of the efforts of every person who saw the potential of this project.



*Two hikers enjoy King County's regional trail system.*



## Carolyn Edmonds

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## Parks, Trails, and Open Space Update

### *In the community...*



*Carolyn at Great Harvest Bread in Lake Forest Park. Carolyn has worked hard to build relationships with the small business community in North County.*



*Councilmember Edmonds discusses issues with a local resident at the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center. Carolyn was Board President for the Senior Center from 1996-1997.*



# North County Summer Fun

FREE OR LOW-COST ACTIVITIES TO GET YOU THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS

## Books are Fun!

### King County Library Summer Reading Program

This year's theme is "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds." Twenty-eight programs, each with a variation on a medieval theme, are scheduled for libraries system-wide. Look for performances of "The Paper Bag Princess" by Seattle Children's Theatre, "The Dragon Who Came to Visit" by Mad Science of King County and a "Books and Beasts of the Middle Ages" art workshop with Molly Hashimoto. Programs run from June 15-August 25. For a full schedule, visit [www.kcls.org](http://www.kcls.org) or call 425-462-9600.

### Lake Forest Park Reads Broken for You

Join this community-wide effort to read the same book by author Stephanie Kallos. Third Place Commons will host book discussions and an author meeting on several dates throughout June and July. Call 206-368-5440 or [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com) for more information.

### Seattle Public Library Summer Reading Program

"Reading is Natural" runs June 17 through Aug. 31. The 24 different multicultural programs include "Kintaro — The Strong Little Boy Who Sucked His Thumb!" by storyteller and master koto player Elizabeth Falconer, the Lieu Quan Lion Dance by the Vietnamese Lieu Quan Lion Dance Troupe, and "Teachings of the First People," stories from the Duwamish and Snoqualmie tribes by Roger Fernandes. For specific program information, visit [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) or call 206-386-4636.



*Councilmember Carolyn Edmonds outside the Shoreline branch of the KC Library System.*

## Stargazing in Shoreline

The Seattle Astronomical Society holds a star observation party on the second Saturday of the month at 7 p.m. at Paramount Park, 15300 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Shoreline. The public sessions begin at dusk and

are dependent on weather conditions. Take advantage of clear, warm summer nights to view the cosmos first hand.



For details, please call 206-523-2787 or see the Society's website at [www.seattleastro.org](http://www.seattleastro.org).

### NORTH COUNTY CELEBRATES SUMMER

## Music in the Park

**Lake Forest Park Concerts in the Park,** 206-417-4645, [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com), all shows begin at 7 p.m.

**Animal Acres Park** (NE 178<sup>th</sup> & Brookside Blvd NE)  
July 6: Nueva Era Big Salsa Band  
July 13: Bill Anschell Jazz Quintet

**Bothell's Music in the Park,** 425-486-7430, [www.ci.bothell.wa.us](http://www.ci.bothell.wa.us)  
**Bothell Landing Amphitheatre** (9919 N.E. 180th St.)  
Every Friday at 6:30 p.m., July 8 through Aug. 26. Music includes soul, swing, zydeco and Irish folk.

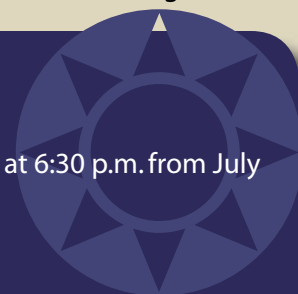
**Kenmore Summer Concerts,** 425-398-8900, [www.cityofkenmore.com](http://www.cityofkenmore.com)

**St. Edwards State Park,** every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. from July 7 to August 25.

**Shoreline Concerts,** 206-417-4645, [www.shorelinearts.net](http://www.shorelinearts.net), all shows begin at 7 p.m.  
**Cromwell Park** (18009 Corliss Ave. N.)

July 20: Stickshift Annie with Kimball & the Fugitives  
July 27: Illusion of Elvis, Elvis & Friends

**Richmond Beach Community Park** (2201 NW 197 St.)  
August 3: Twelfth Night (Wooden O Shakespeare Company)  
August 10: Bobby Medina (Vegas-style show band)  
August 17: Jazz & Big Band  
August 24: African All Stars



# Farmers Markets

North County now features three local farmers markets. Find fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables at a market near you:

**Lake City**, Thursdays from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., NE 127th St. & 30th Ave NE (operates May 19-Oct. 21)

**Lake Forest Park**, Sundays 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., corner of Ballinger Way and SR 522 (operates June 12-October 2)

**Woodinville**, Saturdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Old City Hall at NE 175th St (operates April 16 - Oct. 15)

Farmers markets are a great way to support local farmers and get access to the freshest produce. For more information on local markets or "u-pick farms" visit [www.pugetsoundfresh.org](http://www.pugetsoundfresh.org) or call (206) 296-7824.



***Councilmember Edmonds provided the seed money to start the Lake Forest Park Farmers' Market, pictured on opening day above.***

## Outdoor Movie Series

### Lake Forest Park Movies in the Park

This free series is held at dusk at the Animal Acres Park in Lake Forest Park (NE 178<sup>th</sup> and Brookside Blvd NE). Movies include "City Slickers" on July 15 and "Sandlot" on August 12.

For more information check out [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com) or call 206-368-5440.

### Fremont Outdoor Movies

Now in its fourteenth season, this outdoor movie series is held every Saturdays from June 25 and August 27 at North 35th and Phinney Ave N. in Seattle. The lot opens at 7:30 p.m. with showtime at dusk. Festivities include games, contests and pre-show entertainment. The suggested donation is \$5. For

more information, see [www.fremontoutdoormovies.com](http://www.fremontoutdoormovies.com) or call 206-781-4230.

### Redhook Moonlight Cinema Series

This film series runs Thursday evenings from mid-July to early September at the Redhook Brewery (14300 N.E. 145th St. Woodinville). Live music begins at 7:30 and a movie follows at dusk. Admission is \$5 and minors must be accompanied by an adult. For schedule information, see [www.redhook.com](http://www.redhook.com) or call 425-483-3232.

### Movies at the Mural

Seattle Center's free outdoor movie series is held at the Seattle Center Mural Amphitheatre (305 Harrison St.). The movies will be shown Fridays and Saturdays from Aug. 12 - Aug. 28. For more information, see [www.seattlecenter.com](http://www.seattlecenter.com) or call 206-684-7200.

## Bike Races

Check out the Velodrome Races! The bike races at Marymoor Park near Redmond have started on their newly resurfaced outside track—the only one of its kind on the West Coast.

Races run every Friday at 7:30 through August 26th. Spectator admission rates are \$4 per person. Kids under 16 are free! For information call 206-957-4555 or check out [www.marymoorvelodrome.org](http://www.marymoorvelodrome.org)

## Woods, Water, and Wildlife (close to home)

### King County Park Campsites

You can still get a feeling for nature with out traveling too far by reserving campsites at several of King County's Parks, including Marymoor Park near Redmond, Tolt McDonald Park in Carnation or at the Enumclaw Fairgrounds. For information on King County campgrounds, call 206-296-4232 or check out [www.metrokc.gov/parks/camping/campgrounds.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/camping/campgrounds.htm).

### Elliott Bay Water Taxi

King County Metro's Water Taxi crosses Elliott Bay seven days a week. The taxi departs downtown Seattle at Pier 55 at the foot of Spring Street and arrives at Seacrest dock in West Seattle. The crossing time is approximately 12 minutes. The cost is \$3 one way (free with a bus pass or \$1 with a transfer). For details see [transit.metrokc.gov](http://transit.metrokc.gov) or call 206-205-3866.

### King County Fair

The fair runs July 20-24 at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw. See live entertainment on three stages from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., as well as BMX stunt bikes, a logger rodeo, an arm wrestling tournament, a hypnotist, a critter crowning contest and carnival rides! Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children. For a full schedule see the fair website at [www.metrokc.gov/fair](http://www.metrokc.gov/fair).